

One Hundred Eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE FIRST SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Tuesday,
the seventh day of January, two thousand and three*

Concurrent Resolution

Whereas the Blue Star Flag (commonly referred to as the “Blue Star Banner”) was patented and designed in 1917, during the height of World War I, by Army Captain Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry, who had two sons serving on the front lines;

Whereas the Blue Star Flag quickly became the symbol for a family member serving the Nation in the Armed Forces, and families began proudly displaying these flags in their front windows during World War I;

Whereas each Blue Star on the flag represents a family member serving in the Armed Forces and symbolizes hope and pride;

Whereas beginning in 1918, the Blue Star would signify the living, and a smaller Gold Star would be placed on top of the Blue Star, forming a blue border, if the family member was killed or died while on active duty, to symbolize the family member’s sacrifice for the cause of freedom;

Whereas Blue Star Flags were displayed widely during World War II;

Whereas many of the flags displayed during those wars were handmade by the mothers of those serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the legacy of the Blue Star Flag continued during the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf Wars and other periods of conflict, as well as in times of peace;

Whereas the Blue Star Flag is the official flag authorized by law, at section 901 of title 36, United States Code, to be displayed in honor of a family member serving the United States on active duty in the Armed Forces during a period of war or hostilities, while the Gold Star may be displayed in honor of a family member who has made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation;

Whereas for over 85 years, families have proudly displayed the Blue Star Flag showing United States service personnel the honor and pride that is taken in their sacrifices for freedom;

Whereas the flag may be displayed by members of the immediate family of a loved one serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas the flag may be flown by families with a service member stationed either domestically or overseas;

Whereas the display of the flag in the front window of a home shows a family’s pride in their loved one and is a reminder that preserving America’s freedom demands great sacrifice; and

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Whereas such a reminder is especially timely during the current conflict with Iraq and the global war on terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) honors members of the United States Armed Forces and their families;

(2) calls on all Americans to honor the members of the United States Armed Forces and their families, to recognize the importance of the Blue Star Flag and the Gold Star and their symbolism of the devotion and service of the members of the United States Armed Forces, and to advance awareness of the Blue Star Flag and the Gold Star through all appropriate information and media channels; and

(3) encourages the families of members of the Armed Forces to proudly display the Blue Star Flag or, if their loved one has made the ultimate sacrifice, the Gold Star.

SEC. 2. The authority on which this resolution rests is the authority of Congress to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper as provided in Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

Attest:

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Attest:

Secretary of the Senate.